

Mr. President, Senator Curtis brought to the Senate the plain-spoken common sense of rural Nebraska. He understood his roots and he cared deeply for the people he represented. While his style did not lend itself to self-promotion and banner headlines, his influence in Congress was felt on a number of important issues. He was instrumental in shaping tax and agricultural policy, he was a staunch advocate of budgetary discipline, and he was a fervent defender of his political party. Yet, Senator Curtis was most well known for his dedication to the people of Nebraska. As many have noted, Senator Curtis set the standard for constituent service. He often dedicated hours of his personal time to helping individuals and his office was always open to Nebraskans visiting the nation's capital.

As the longest serving Member of Congress in Nebraska history, Senator Curtis established a legacy of service unlikely to be matched. After retiring from Congress, Senator Curtis returned to the practice of law and always remained an active participant in Nebraska politics.

While Nebraska has lost a statesman, the Curtis family has lost a husband, a father, a grandfather, and a great grandfather. I know my colleagues will join with me in expressing our sincerest condolences to the family of Senator Carl T. Curtis.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 246) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 246

Whereas Senator Curtis served with honor and distinction, for the State of Nebraska, in the House of Representatives from 1939 until his resignation in 1954 and in the Senate from 1955 to 1979.

Whereas Senator Curtis served his country for 40 years.

Whereas Senator Curtis stood for fiscal and social conservatism.

Whereas Senator Curtis regarded one of his biggest accomplishments as bringing flood control and irrigation to the Midwest.

Whereas Senator Curtis served as the Senate Republican Conference Chairman and ranking member on the Finance Committee during his last term in office.

Whereas Senator Curtis was admitted to the bar in 1930 and had a private law practice in Minden, Nebraska prior to his service in the House of Representatives.

Whereas Senator Curtis served in Congress longer than any other Nebraskan.

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Carl Curtis, former member of the United States Senate.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable Carl Curtis.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2000

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until the hour of 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 27. I further ask consent that on Thursday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of the proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then begin a brief period for morning business to consider a few housekeeping matters prior to the Senate proceeding as a body to the Hall of the House of Representatives to hear the President's address.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2000

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the President's State of the Union Address, the Senate immediately stand in adjournment until 12 noon on Monday, January 31. I further ask consent that following the approval of the routine opening requests and reservation of the leaders' time, there be a period for the transaction of morning business until the hour of 2 p.m., with the time between 12 noon and 1 p.m. under the control of the Democratic leader, or his designee, and the time from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. under the control of Senator LOTT, or his designee. I further ask consent that at 2 p.m. the Senate resume the bankruptcy reform bill under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, the Senate will be in session at 8:30 p.m. tomorrow in order to proceed as a body to the House of Representatives to hear the President's address. Following his remarks, the Senate will adjourn until Monday at 12 noon. At 2 p.m., the Senate will resume the bankruptcy bill. As announced previously, no rollcall votes will occur on Monday. Any Senator who still intends to debate bankruptcy amendments should be available to debate those amendments on Monday. Any votes ordered on those amendments will be postponed to occur on Tuesday, February 1.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the

Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order following the remarks of Senators DODD, DURBIN, DASCHLE, and REID of Nevada.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SENATOR KERREY'S DECISION TO NOT SEEK RE-ELECTION

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, last week, to my regret, my good friend, Senator BOB KERREY, announced that he will be leaving this Senate at the end of this year to return to private life. I'm sure my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will agree that his decision is a loss not only to Nebraskans, and to the Democratic party, but to the entire Senate.

Over the years, Senator KERREY has made us all laugh. More importantly, he has made us all think. He has challenged us to face the big questions of our time and to reach across party lines to find solutions.

It has been said that some people seek public office to be someone; others seek office to do something. Clearly, BOB KERREY is of the "do something" school.

Before he ever came to the Senate, he had achieved more than almost anyone I know. A pharmacist by training, he has also been a Navy SEAL, a decorated war hero, a successful entrepreneur, and a popular governor—all by the time he was 44 years old.

Perhaps even more impressive than his professional accomplishments, however, are his personal achievements.

As we all know much of the story, BOB KERREY was nearly killed 30 years ago in Vietnam. On a moonless night, while he was leading a surprise attack on North Vietnamese snipers, an enemy grenade exploded on the ground beside him, shattering his right leg, badly wounding his right hand, and piercing much of his body with shrapnel. Days later, doctors were focused to amputate his injured leg just below the knee.

For his sacrifice, Lieutenant KERREY was awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and the highest award our nation bestows for bravery, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

He returned from Vietnam angry and disillusioned. What he endured in Vietnam, and what he saw later at the Philadelphia Naval Hospital, where he spent nine months learning how to walk again, shook his faith—both in the war, and in the government that had sent him to it. It forced him to re-

examine everything he had ever believed about his country. But slowly, out of his pain and anger and doubt, he began to acquire a new faith in this nation.

Years ago, when he was Governor of Nebraska, he described that faith to a reporter. He said, "There are . . . people who like to say, 'You know all these subsidy programs we've got? They make people lazy.' And I like to jump right in their face and say, that is an absolute lie." Government help "didn't make me lazy. It made me grateful."

It was the United States Government, he said, that fitted him with a prosthesis and taught him to walk again. It was the government that paid for the countless operations he needed.

Later, it was the government that helped him open his first restaurant with his brother-in-law. And when that restaurant was destroyed in a tornado, it was the government—the people of the United States—that loaned them the money to rebuild.

For 4 years as Nebraska's Governor, and for the last 11 years as a Member of this Senate, BOB KERREY has fought to make sure the people of the United States, through their government, work for all Americans.

He has fought to make health care more affordable and accessible. He has fought to give entrepreneurs the chance to turn their good ideas into profitable businesses. He has fought to make sure this Nation keeps its promises to veterans.

He has fought tirelessly to preserve family farms and rural communities. As someone, like Senator KERREY, who comes from a state that is made up mostly of small towns and rural communities, I am personally grateful to him for his insistence that rural America be treated fairly.

But Senator KERREY's greatest contribution to this Senate, and to this nation, may be the fact that he is not afraid to challenge conventional wisdom.

In 1994, almost singlehandedly, he created and chaired the Bipartisan Commission on Entitlement and Tax Reform. Conventional wisdom said, don't get involved with entitlements. You can't make anyone happy; you can only make enemies. But BOB KERREY's personal experience told him that preserving Social Security and Medicare was worth taking a political risk.

He has repeatedly opposed efforts to amend our Constitution to make flag-burning a crime. It is politically risky, even for a wounded war hero, to take such a position. But Senator KERREY has taken that risk, time and time again, because—in his words, "America is a beacon of hope for the people of this world who yearn for freedom from the despotism of repressive government. This hope is diluted when we advise others that we are frightened by flag burning."

He is a genuine patriot, and a genuine American hero.

There is a story Senator KERREY has told many times about a conversation he had with his mother 30 years ago. Doctors at the Philadelphia Naval Hospital had just amputated his leg. When he awoke from surgery, his mother was standing at his bedside. "How much is left?" he asked her. His mother responded, "There's a lot left." As Senator KERREY says, "She wasn't talking about body parts. She was talking about here." She was talking about what was in his heart.

He has said that he would like to focus now on his private life. As much as I regret his decision, I respect it. Public life offers great regards, but it also makes great demands—on the officeholder, and on his or her family.

The only consolation in seeing BOB KERREY leave this Senate will be watching what he does next with his remarkable life. There is still a lot left. I have no doubt he will continue to contribute in significant ways to our Nation. And until he goes, we will continue to look to him for unorthodox solutions and uncommon courage.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry, what is the business before the Senate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are in morning business, with Senators being allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes.

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EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT ELIAN GONZALEZ SHOULD BE REUNITED WITH HIS FATHER, JUAN GONZALEZ OF CUBA

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise to introduce a resolution on behalf of myself and my colleagues Senator BOXER, Senator FEINSTEIN, and Senator DURBIN. Because I have not solicited co-sponsors of this resolution, others may wish to add their names at a later time.

This resolution is virtually identical to a resolution that has been introduced in the other body by Congressman RANGEL of New York, along with a number of other Members of the House. I am told that support for that resolution is bipartisan in nature.

I am going to read the resolution into the RECORD. That is not a normal event, but I think the wording of it is so significant that it deserves to be read into the RECORD. The resolution deals with the case of 6-year-old Cuban boy, Elian Gonzalez, who we all know tragically lost his mother in that dreadful boating incident, an accident as they left Cuba and sought to come to the United States. Young Elian

spent some time in the water alone and survived that tragedy. Today, after weeks of this going on, this matter has attracted national and international attention.

Yesterday, together with Senators LEAHY, BOXER, DURBIN, and HAGEL, I met for about an hour with the two grandmothers of this 6-year-old boy. I was convinced before the meeting—and even more so afterwards—that this is a matter which ought to be resolved immediately by reuniting this young boy with his father in Cuba.

I am terribly upset and worried that this matter may end up as a subject of debate in the Senate. I have no intention whatsoever of pursuing the resolution that I introduce today. In fact, it is my strong desire not to pursue it—unless the Senate is forced to address legislation that would extend citizenship or permanent resident status to this young boy. Should such legislation come to the Floor of the Senate, then I will offer this resolution as an alternative.

My sincere hope is that the leadership of the Senate and of the House will think again before deciding to make this child a focal point in a debate about the current regime in Cuba. He really should not be, in my view. The Senate of the United States and the House of Representatives ought not to utilize this child as a way of advancing the debate on Cuba. This would be a great travesty, in my view. Confering, by special legislation, citizenship or permanent resident status on this boy would, I believe, set a dangerous precedent. It would violate longstanding legal processes. Furthermore, it would violate a cherished principle ingrained in the Constitution and laws of our country, and embraced by all of us here—namely, that the best interests of a child is normally served by that child being with his or her parents.

Tragically, this young boy lost his mother. His father, we are told, was a good father—and is a good father. This boy ought to be returned to his dad and be home with him, and the quicker the better. So I hope the matter will not come before the Senate.

I have great respect for our majority leader. Most of my colleagues know this. We have our disagreements, but the Senator from Mississippi, the majority leader, and I are good friends, and I cherish that friendship. I urge him to think again about this before deciding to ask this body to cast votes on extending citizenship to an infant. I do not think it is a wise move. I think it is wrong for the Senate to do so, and I hope a different decision will be reached and this matter is left to be resolved in the courts where it is now. That is the best way, in my view, to expedite this process so this boy can be returned to his father and cease to be a pawn in a larger geopolitical debate.

Let me, if I can, read the wording of this resolution because I think it might enlighten some Members who